

## HOMEWALK L.A. 2009

On November 7, 2009, the Community Development Commission (CDC) and Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) staff took part in the United Way's third annual HomeWalk, an event to raise awareness and money to end homelessness in Los Angeles County. Before the event, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion to declare November 7th "HomeWalk Day" throughout Los Angeles County, and encouraged employees of all County agencies to attend the event. CDC responded to this call to action by bringing 50 walkers to the event and raising \$3,841, making the CDC one of the top fundraising teams.

On the beautiful sunny morning, CDC staff along with their families and friends joined nearly 5,000 other walkers at Exposition Park. Prior to the walk, Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Zev Yaroslavsky addressed the crowd and spoke about the problem of homelessness in the County. Participants were then able to browse the booths where service providers handed out homeless housing and assistance information. The walkers completed the course proudly showing their support of ending homelessness in Los Angeles County.

HomeWalk 2009 brought in a total of \$350,000, all of which will be distributed to organizations in the County that provide permanent housing and services for homeless families and individuals living in Los Angeles County. This event not only benefited the homeless families and individuals, but more importantly, provided CDC staff, as well as their colleagues from other County departments, the opportunity to better the lives of those in need.

We Build Better Lives  
& Better Neighborhoods



I'M ENDING  
HOMELESSNESS  
NOW.



## SECTION 8 PARTICIPANTS "What Home Means To Me" Poster Contest



On October 22, 2009, HACoLA recognized Taveyon Byrd and Jalaya Williams for their participation in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' (NAHRO) "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest.

The poster contest was sponsored nationally by NAHRO, with public housing authorities throughout the country participating through their regional NAHRO groups. The grand prize was a trip to the NAHRO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., in March 2010.

While Taveyon and Jalaya were not selected as national finalists, their artwork and sentiments were thoughtful and reflected the contest theme "What Home Means to Me". HACoLA was proud to submit their posters for consideration to NAHRO and have them represent Los Angeles County.

Both Taveyon and Jalaya are Section 8 participants residing in Lancaster. Their mother, Ms. Benee Williams, has also participated in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program since February 2008, working toward economic self-sufficiency for her family.

HACoLA's Assisted Housing Division plans to continue its involvement in the poster contest as a means of encouraging our younger participants' creativity and involvement in programs that have a direct impact on them.

## PUBLIC HOUSING Fall Harvest Festival



On November 19, 2009, HACoLA's The Growing Experience Program hosted its first Fall Harvest Festival. Over 100 guests milled about The Growing Experience's 7-acre urban eco-farm, and enjoyed tours and music while sampling a variety of fall seasonal produce prepared by local chefs - all of whom buy produce from The Growing Experience. Children were invited to make scarecrows and plant seedlings. Local residents and area school kids, including participants from the Head Start Program, helped to make this event a success!

In addition, staff from Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe's office, Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster's office, and City of Long Beach Councilperson Rae Gabelich's office, were present. Also joining in the celebration were Dorian Jenkins, CDC Assistant Executive Director, and Maria Badrakhhan, Director of HACoLA's Housing Management Division.

The Growing Experience is located at the Carmelitos public housing community in North Long Beach. For over 10 years, the program has provided public housing residents, as well as the local community, with an urban farming community experience. The Growing Experience not only provides sustainable produce, but also access to job training, especially in the thriving "green" industries. For more information on The Growing Experience, please contact Jimmy Ng at (562) 984-2917.

**The Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles serves as the County's Housing Authority, administering both the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs.**

# Community Improvement



## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT 4th Avenue Park



Following months of active community involvement in the design process, construction documents for the new 5.5-acre 4th Avenue Park, located in the unincorporated community of La Puente, hit the 50% completion mark during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2009-10.

The new \$4.5 million development funded by First District Supervisor Gloria Molina, includes fully accessible toddler and school-aged children playgrounds designed in partnership with Shane's Inspiration to meet the needs of both disabled and able-bodied children. Park features will include a skate park, walking path, barbeque areas, and shaded parking.

The new park will also include landscaping such as:

- An olive tree orchard;
- Oak tree grove;
- A California wildflower garden;
- Drought tolerant grasses; and
- A hillside demonstration garden.

In cooperation with the County's Art's Commission, a new civic art element is also being added to the park. After completion in the summer of 2011, the County's Department of Parks and Recreation will oversee its operation.

Landscape Architect, Katherine Spitz and Associates is designing the 4th Avenue Park project. The CDC's Construction Management Division is managing the project from pre-development through construction.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CYR Business Loan



On December 1, 2009, the CDC, in cooperation with the County Board of Supervisors, funded a \$300,000 business loan to CYR International, Inc. (CYR) to buy machinery and equipment crucial to the growth of their company.

CYR was created in 2004 to promote, market, and distribute Korean dumplings made by the nationally recognized Korean company, Chew Young Roo (CYR). Mr. Eun Chan Lim, President, stated "CYR could not have expanded its operation without the help of the CDC. Today, CYR has over 30 employees and we are planning to double that number in 2010. The CDC's financial support came at a critical time and assisted our growth which translates into jobs in this difficult economy where they are much badly needed."

Through the County Business Loan Program (CBLP), the CDC helps provide economic growth and job creation in Los Angeles County. CBLP helps small-to-medium size businesses expand and create low-to-moderate income jobs with a revolving loan fund that supports companies with their expansion and development. Typical uses include real estate, construction, equipment, and working capital.

Loan amounts range from \$50,000 to \$5 million. The current rate is fixed at 6.50% with a loan fee of 2 points for 5 to 20 years. To be considered for the CBLP, companies must show good credit, provide evidence of repayment ability and acceptable collateral. So far, the CBLP has approved over \$100 million in commercial and industrial loans.



# Other Highlights

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Community Resource Center Gets a Facelift



One of the Community Resource Center's (CRC) priorities is preserving its beautiful facility for the residents of the surrounding community.

The CRC, opened in February 1998, is a result of a unique partnership between the CDC, which owns and runs the CRC, the 1st and 4th Supervisorial Districts, and the City of Santa Fe Springs. Every year, thousands of residents benefit from the programs offered at the CRC. Community enriching activities include after-school tutorials for youth, health and job fairs, as well as computer and English courses for adults.

After more than a decade of use, the CRC recently received a much-needed facelift. In support of this effort, this past November, the CRC received capital improvement funds provided by Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe for the painting of the building's exterior. The CRC now looks as good as it did when it first opened. Continued maintenance of the CRC will allow for it to continue providing services to the residents of the South Whittier area today and for many years to come.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT - Penny Lane Antelope Valley Family Center



On October 29, 2009, Penny Lane Centers, Inc. held a grand opening for the Penny Lane Antelope Valley Family Center. The project, which was funded by the Homeless and Housing Program Fund, administered by the CDC, included the construction of a new two-story building located in Lancaster. The center will house several service providers including: a health clinic, Wrap Around Program, foster family agency, transitional housing and family preservation, as well as a child care center able to accommodate 30 children.

The Penny Lane Antelope Valley Family Center includes 100 offices able to hold up to four staff members and a larger one to accommodate 10 people. Penny Lane offers its service providers a resource center, a staff lunchroom, and several waiting areas and lobbies.

## EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS California Shakeout Drill



On October 15, 2009, CDC staff took part in the California Shakeout Drill. Through a widely publicized campaign, public and private organizations throughout the State simultaneously promoted earthquake preparedness among their employees. At the appointed hour, CDC Emergency Response Teams simulated an earthquake and directed staff to DROP - COVER - and HOLD. Staff responded by dropping to the ground, taking cover under their desks while covering their heads, and holding in place until the (simulated) shaking stopped.

Acting immediately and instinctively to DROP - COVER - and HOLD when an earthquake hits is an important part of earthquake preparedness. Too often, the "unprepared" will react to the shaking by trying to run to an exit. Injuries are much more likely to occur -- from flying projectiles, toppling furniture or from falling down-- if one runs while the earth is shaking. Preparing to react correctly when the shaking starts is just as important as being prepared with enough emergency supplies stored in your home and vehicle. Going through the motions to DROP - COVER - and HOLD was a valuable exercise for CDC staff. They will now be better prepared in the event of a real earthquake.